

REMARKS

Claims 16-35 are currently pending in the subject application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 21-35.

Claims 16-35 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application are respectfully requested, and favorable action upon all pending claims is hereby requested.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action mailed November 5, 2003, the Examiner withdrew the previously indicated allowability of claim 20. The Examiner rejected claims 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent No. 6,177,307 B1 to Tu et al. ("the Tu et al. reference") in view of United States Patent No. 6,326,282 B1 to Park et al. ("the Park et al. reference") and United States Patent No. 5,879,459 B1 to Gadgil et al. ("the Gadgil et al. reference"). The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tu et al. reference, the Park et al. reference and the Gadgil et al. reference, and further in view of Wolf et al., *Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era: Vol. 1-Process Technology* ("the Wolf et al. reference"). The Examiner indicated that claims 21-35 are allowable.

B. Asserted Rejection of Claims 16-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Tu et al. reference in view of the Park et al. reference and the Gadgil et al. reference, and claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Tu et al. reference in view of the Park et al. reference and the Gadgil et al. reference, and further in view of the Wolf et al. reference.

These rejections are respectfully traversed, as the present invention as claimed and the Park et al. reference were commonly owned by Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. at the time the invention was made, and a terminal disclaimer disclaiming the terminal part of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend beyond the expiration date of the commonly owned reference, viz., U.S. Patent No. 6,326,282 B1 to Park et al., is being filed concurrently herewith. Therefore, the rejections of claims 16-20 are believed to be overcome, and claims 16-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, a notice of allowance of claims 16-20 is respectfully requested.

C. Conclusion

In view of the terminal disclaimer related to U.S. Patent No. 6,326,282 B1 to Park et al., which is being filed concurrently with the instant amendment, and the remarks contained herein, claims 16-35 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.